

12 March 1962

MEMORANDUM FOR The Chief, Special Activities Office, Defense Intelligence Agency

SUBJECT: NRO-DIA Relationships and Procedures

1. In General Carroll's memorandum of 23 February 1962 to Honorable Joseph V. Charyk, entitled 'Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA) Liaison with Under Secretary of the Air Force,' he noted the establishment of the DIA Special Activities Office as the DIA office of contact for such liaison, and suggested that someone from this office be designated to work with the Chief of the DIA (SAO) to formalize mutually acceptable liaison procedures. I will be happy for you to work directly with me or with Col Martin in these and any other NRO matters of concern to your office.

2. It may be helpful to summarize the general relationship between the NRO and the DIA, as we understand it. The NRO has exclusive responsibility for the management, operation and security of the collection projects of the National Reconnaissance Program (NRP), as defined in the basic NRO charter of 6 September 1961. However, the NRO is not responsible for development of equipment for, or exploitation of, the collected products. It is responsible for informing the minimum number of appropriate officials in order that they may take the action necessary to prepare for and exploit these products. In this regard, the DIA will be the single focal point which will screen all requests for NRO operational clearances from any service or agency of the Department of Defense, rejecting some directly, forwarding others with recommendations for approval and detailed, specific justification to the NRO for final decision. The DIA will be responsible for determining who should be informed and what information should be given to enable adequate preparation for exploitation of all products of the NRP, and for obtaining NRO approval and information release in each such instance.

3. In regard to operating procedures between our offices, I suggest the following:

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DIA and NRO review(s) completed.

a. NRO(SA FMS) will do all initial briefing of persons who receive NRO operational clearances.

b. DIA(SAO) will do all de-briefing of Department of Defense personnel on the occasion of their transfer or at any other time upon being notified by the NRO that their clearances have been withdrawn.

c. NRO(SA FMS) will make all briefings on the status of the NRP to cleared personnel. DIA will make recommendations for such briefings to the NRO.

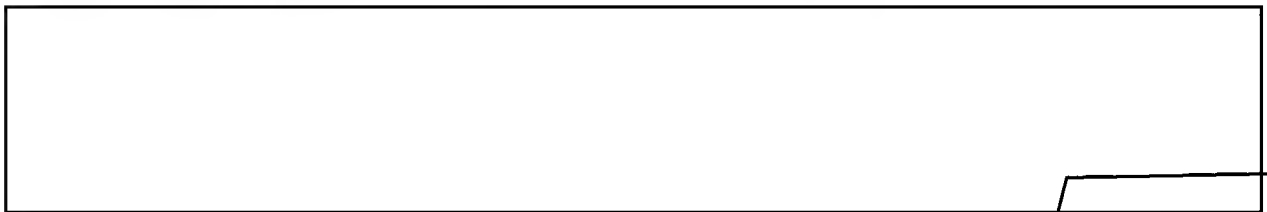
d. DIA(SAO) will determine the information necessary to be disclosed to particular individuals who do not require complete operational clearance but who must have specific information in order to prepare for exploitation of the expected products. DIA(SAO) will make this determination in consultation with NRO(SA FMS) personnel as required, prepare the information in written form, and obtain NRO approval in each case for the person and the information. Subsequent to such approval, DIA(SAO) will provide such persons with the approved information.

e. DIA(SAO) will provide the NRO(SA FUS and SA FMS) with prompt reports concerning the preliminary interpretation of photographic detail.

f. DIA(SAO) will work directly and informally with NRO(SA FMS) as required at any time. SA FMS will inform SAO of substantive changes in projects of the NRP, and will brief, review and discuss the NRP with the SAO at any time and to any extent necessary for the SAO to function as outlined herein.

4. The NRO will deal directly with the NPIC for all NPIC functions, clearances, and preparatory information, on a basis similar to that followed for the DIA.

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cc:



R. D. CURTIN
Brigadier General, USAF
Director

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